

Message Text

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USLO PEKING
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECEM, CB, US

SUBJECT: SECOND DDT SALES LICENSE FOR CAMBODIA

REF: STATE 266595 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE HAVE APPROVED A SECOND LICENSE FOR AMERICAN FIRM TO SELL DDT TO CAMBODIA. THE FIRST LICENSE WAS APPROVED IN OCTOBER AND WAS FOR THE SALE OF 400 METRIC TONS OF DDT TO THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH A HONG KONG AGENT. THE SECOND SALE IS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 500 METRIC TONS OF DDT, ALSO SOLD THROUGH A HONG KONG INTERMEDIARY. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT, WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTS OF WIDESPREAD MALARIA IN CAMBODIA, THE HUMANITARIAN AND PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF THE REQUEST JUSTIFY APPROVAL OF THESE LICENSES WITHOUT SETTING PRECEDENT FOR OTHER COMMERCIAL SALES.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S

PRESS SPOKESMAN TO USE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS. YOU SHOULD REFER ANY INQUIRIES ON THIS TO THE DEPARTMENT:

Q: I HEAR THE US HAS LICENSED THE SALE OF MORE DDT TO CAMBODIA. WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

A: ON THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION, COMMERCE IS ISSUING A LICENSE TO AN AMERICAN COMPANY TO SELL CAMBODIA 500 METRIC TONS (M/T) OF DDT WORTH ABOUT \$650,000. IN OCTOBER, COMMERCE GAVE THE SAME COMPANY A LICENSE TO SELL 400 M/T TO THE KHMER. (COMMERCE REGULATIONS PROHIBIT DISCLOSING THE COMPANY'S NAME).

Q: DO YOU STILL MAINTAIN THAT THE TRADE EMBARGO IS IN FORCE?

A: THE TRADE CONTROLS REMAIN IN FORCE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR LICENSE ON CASE BY CASE BASIS.

Q: DOES THE SALE SIGNAL A NEW POLICY TOWARD CAMBODIA?

A: WIDESPREAD MALARIA HAS CREATED AN URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENT FOR DDT. THE APPROVAL OF THIS LICENSE, LIKE THE LAST ONE, RESPONDS TO A CLEAR HUMANITARIAN NEED. I WOULD NOT TAKE IT BEYOND THAT.

Q: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY OFFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US AND CAMBODIA?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY, BEYOND OUR EFFORT WITH THEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST FALL AT THE UN TO SEEK INFORMATION ON MIAS--WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED PUBLICLY--AND OF COURSE NORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR MISSIONS IN NEW YORK.
KISSINGER

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